

Conversion to Grants of Previously Provided Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Loans in Conjunction with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

CGMA has provided assistance in over 700 cases related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Almost all of this financial assistance was provided on an emergency needs basis as “loans”, with very minimal documentation. The goal was to get assistance to people as rapidly as possible and at a later point in time determine, as more information became available, which cases should be converted to grants, which should continue to be loans and which should be combinations of loan and grant.

Criteria:

Loans for the following general types of losses incurred, that have not or will not be reimbursed by other source, are eligible for conversion to grants:

- a. Disaster Assistance /Basic Living Expenses - food, shelter, utilities, etc. and necessities to prevent privation. Additional needs include basic essentials not covered by other sources.
- b. Temporary Emergency Home Repairs – made to prevent further damage; fallen tree removal; temporary covering over openings, etc.
- c. Household Furnishings/Restoration of Normal Living – including furniture replacement, household supplies, and essential appliances. Assistance to buy essential, economical serviceable items, beds, dining tables, chairs, furnishings, clothing and goods needed to provide a normal stable home environment.
- d. Spoiled food due to power outage, water damage, etc. (reasonable quantities)
- e. Vehicle Rentals
- f. Car Insurance Deductibles

Loans previously made by CGMA for the following losses are not eligible for consideration as grants, but may be considered for loans:

- a. Household/personal property losses while occupying government owned or leased housing. Individuals should file claims with the Coast Guard.
- b. Personal automobiles and motorcycles damaged while parked or stored on a government facility. Individuals should file claims with the Coast Guard.
- c. Uniform items. Members who lost uniform items should file a claim with the Coast Guard.
- d. Moving/Evacuation/Travel Expenses. Portions reimbursed by the Coast Guard under evacuation orders, “safe haven” reimbursements, etc.
- e. Assistance provided that an individual used to help family members that are not dependents will be treated as loans.
- f. Temporary loans for cash until own pay/cash was available at the bank.
- g. Loss of income will be treated as loans
- h. Those which have been reimbursed by other sources such as Government agencies, insurance, etc.

Application:

CGMA has developed a specific one page form for this purpose titled **Application for Loan to Grant Conversion - Hurricane Katrina/Rita** (encl. 1). The form is available on the CGMA web site at www.cgmahq.org and may be reproduced locally as needed.

- The form contains a certification statement that the applicant will be required to sign.
- Loan to grant conversion application decisions will start being made 1 December 2005 on those received by that date. Applications received later will be considered subject to availability of funds.
- Monthly repayments of loans not converted will begin in April 2006, at rates previously established.
- Submit Application to: The original and a copy of your Coast Guard identification card (and any additional documentation if necessary) may be faxed to CGMA at 202-493-6686 or mailed to: